Reasons for lack of interest of foreign airlines in the bidding process of Air India

3666. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the conditions incorporated in the draft shareholders' agreement and share purchase agreement were the important reasons for lack of interest of foreign airlines in continuing with their participation in the bidding process; and

(b) if so, whether Government would assure that no substantive changesor dilution will be made to the provisions of these agreements at the instance of selected strategic partners for the disinvestment of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. The parties who withdrew from the bidding process did so for their own internal reasons and they did not mention the conditions of the draft shareholders' agreement and share purchase agreement as the reasons for their withdrawal.

(b) Does not arise.

Withdrawal of important foreign airlines from the process of disinvestment of Air India

3667. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many important airlines like British Airways, Air France, Delta and Emirates had initially responded to the expression of interest issued by Government for disinvestment of shares in Air India but subsequently all of them withdrew from the process;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have tried to find out the reasons for their loss of interest in the process?